

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An improved thiosulphate leach process, the process characterised by the method steps of submitting a gold-bearing material to a leach in a thiosulphate solution, wherein thiourea or a thio-substituted organic compound, ~~reagent chemically related thereto, and at least one oxidant~~ a complex of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) with a multivalent metal, are present in the thiosulphate leach solution, and subsequently recovering gold from the resulting pregnant leach solution .
2. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein thiourea is provided in a concentration of about 0.01 mole/L.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Original) A process according to claim 3, wherein the multivalent metal is iron and the complex FeEDTA.
5. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein thiosulphate is added in the form of a soluble salt.
6. (Original) A process according to claim 5, wherein the soluble salt is the sodium salt of thiosulphate.
7. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein thiosulphate is provided in a concentration of about 0.1 to 0.3 mole/L.
8. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the oxidant ~~FeEDTA~~ FeEDTA is prepared prior to addition to the leach solution.
9. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the oxidant ~~FeEDTA~~ FeEDTA is prepared by adding suitable amounts of iron salts and EDTA directly to the leach solution.
10. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 4, wherein the concentration of FeEDTA in the leach solution is about 0.002 mole/L
11. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein the pH of the leach is preferably maintained between about 6 to 7.
12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim ~~12~~14, wherein the reagent chemically related to thiourea is one of formamidine disulphide or ~~thiosemicarbazide~~ thiosemicarbazide.
14. (Currently Amended) An improved thiosulphate leach process for the recovery of gold from ores and other gold-bearing materials, characterised in that the leach solution comprises thiosulphate, thiourea or a ~~reagent chemically related thereto~~ thio-substituted organic compound, and ~~an~~ a complex of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) with a multivalent metal oxidant that does not oxidise thiosulphate, the process producing a pregnant leach solution from which gold may be recovered.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 15, wherein the multivalent metal is iron and the complex FeEDTA.
17. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 14, wherein the FeEDTA is provided at a concentration of about 0.002 mole/L.
18. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 14, wherein the thiosulphate is provided at a concentration of between about 0.1 to 0.3 mole/L.
19. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 14, wherein thiourea is provided at a concentration of about 0.01 mole/L.
20. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 14, wherein gold is recovered from the pregnant leach solution by way of either cementation or ion exchange.
21. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 14, wherein the pH of the leach is preferably maintained between about 6 to 7.
22. (Cancelled)
23. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim ~~22~~14, wherein the reagent chemically related to thiourea is one of formamidine disulphide or thiosemicarbazide.
24. (Cancelled)